

GUIDED PATHWAYS

MODESTO JUNIOR COLLEGE

WELCOME BACK!

BY THE MJC PIT CREW

Over the summer faculty, counselors and staff met and were trained on how to create coursework roadmaps and program profiles for our individual programs and disciplines. This work is being done from the ground up, with discipline experts working closely with counselors to help create manageable roadmaps for students to succeed in their majors and careers. The discussions and collaboration that came out of these trainings are still ongoing, and we look forward to seeing what everyone develops.

FACULTY PERSPECTIVE

BY SHELLY FICHTENKORT, PSYCHOLOGY
SCHOOL OF BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES

In creating Guided Pathways for Psychology, I tried to approach it from a student's perspective. For example, a student might think: I would like to study social interactions and work with people. I'm not sure of my major. What classes will most interest me? What careers are available and what could my salary be after I earn a college degree? These types of questions focused my work in creating our Psychology Coursework Roadmap and Program Profile.

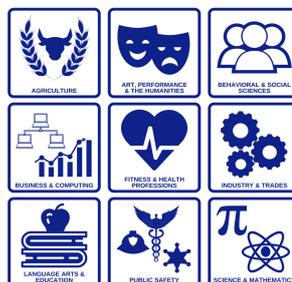
Within each General Education (GE) area, there are several courses that meet that area's requirement. Using the GE cards created across disciplines, I learned about different courses that satisfy each GE requirement and was able to suggest courses for a student interested in the social sciences. Students can always choose a different option, but these specific course suggestions provide students some direction, based on their interest and potential course of study.

Perhaps the most informative process for me (and potential students) was creating the Psychology Program Profile. This is where career options and potential salary questions are addressed. I researched and compared possible careers for students earning an Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees in Psychology and suggested local and statewide employers. Additionally, I identified specific technical and professional skills that students would be expected to demonstrate to be considered by prospective employers.

Guided Pathways provides students with a valuable framework to determine course sequences within disciplines, helps them formulate a plan of study across disciplines and develop skills that will lead to success in their further education and career.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Are you interested in graphic design? Do you think you have a good idea for an image that represents a particular School? We are asking for help designing School-specific icons that best represent what the school stands for. We have already created preliminary draft icons, and look forward to your input. To find out more, visit the Pathways website!



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



BY JAMES HOUPIS

The purpose for our Guided Pathways is to help our students achieve social mobility, to help them realize a better life. If you have read *Redesigning America's Community Colleges: A Clearer Path to Student Success*, you will realize that we need to revolutionize higher education. To date, MJC has provided considerable thought and development into our Guided Pathways, however, more work is needed in curriculum development. A college education should not be a smorgasbord of courses, a check list of requirements, a ridged "no", tough luck and too bad. Instead we need to stop those practices that are not working for the majority of our students. When we fail a student and they drop out, it isn't just a retention rate issue, it's an individual where we have failed to help them achieve a better life. We need to develop a new philosophy for our curriculum, starting with the first year of studies where many of our students don't complete. Does our curriculum provide intrinsic motivation instead of extrinsic motivation—does it encourage our students to want to learn for the sake of enjoying to learn? Is it real to them? Is it based on creativity and adaptability? In other words, does it encourage our students to continue learning or discourage them into quitting? It will be challenging to revolutionize our curriculum, but the payoff will be great—our college will be known as a Beacon of Hope for our students that lights the pathway from where they are to a better life for themselves, their family, and their community.